

Listing of the Claims:

Please delete all prior listings of claims and substitute therefor the following listing of claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A dried paste composition comprising freeze-dried demineralized bone matrix DBM particles, an exothermic salt that heats upon contact with a reconstitution fluid, and a carrier, wherein said carrier is gelatin, hyaluronic acid, polyethylene oxide, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, collagen or dextran, or a combination combinations thereof.
2. (Currently Amended) The dried paste composition of claim 1, wherein said carrier is gelatin and said gelatin is also freeze-dried.
3. (Currently Amended) The dried paste composition of claim 1, wherein said freeze-dried DBM particles are about 125 microns to about 850 microns in size.
4. (Currently Amended) The dried paste composition of claim 3, wherein said freeze-dried DBM particles are about 250 microns to about 500 microns in size.
5. (Currently Amended) The dried paste composition of claim 1, wherein said carrier is gelatin.
6. (Currently Amended) The dried paste composition of claim 5, wherein said gelatin is in the form of granules having a size of about 125 microns to about 710 microns.
7. (Currently Amended) The dried paste composition of claim 6, wherein said gelatin is in the form of granules having a size of about 500 microns to about 710 microns.
8. (Currently Amended) The dried paste composition of claim 1, further comprising antibiotics; or sucrose, dextrose or other biologically compatible anti-caking agents; or a

combination combinations thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~paste~~ composition of claim 1, further comprising barium, iodine, or other radioopaque substances, or a combination combinations thereof.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~paste~~ composition of claim + 4, further comprising an exothermic substance wherein said carrier is gelatin.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~paste~~ composition of claim + 1, wherein said exothermic salt comprises Magnesium chloride, Sodium sulfate, or Magnesium sulfate or other exothermic salts, or a combination combinations thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) A reconstituted ~~paste~~ composition comprising consisting essentially of an admixture of a dried ~~paste~~ composition comprising freeze-dried DBM particles, an exothermic salt that heats upon contact with a reconstitution fluid, and a carrier, wherein said carrier is gelatin, hyaluronic acid, polyethylene oxide, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, collagen or dextran, or a combination combinations thereof, and reconstitution fluid, wherein said reconstitution fluid is selected from the group consisting of water, water-based salines, blood or fractions thereof, protein solutions, gelatin solutions, growth factor solutions, antibiotic solutions, analgesic solutions, platelet rich plasma, crude platelet extract, and combinations thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The A reconstituted paste composition of claim 12 wherein the carrier is comprising an admixture of a dried paste composition comprising freeze-dried DBM particles and gelatin, and reconstitution fluid, wherein said reconstitution fluid comprises water.

14. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a container having the dried ~~paste~~ composition of claim 1 disposed therein.

15. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 14, wherein said container is a syringe.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A The dried paste composition of claim 12 comprising freeze-dried DBM particles and gelatin, wherein the DBM particles are about 250 microns to about 500 microns in size.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a bone defect or injury comprising reconstituting the ~~dried paste~~ composition of claim 1 with a reconstitution fluid to form a paste composition, wherein said reconstitution fluid is selected from the group consisting of water, water-based salines, blood or fractions thereof, protein solutions, gelatin solutions, growth factor solutions, antibiotic solutions, analgesic solutions, platelet rich plasma, crude platelet extract, and combinations thereof; and administering the paste composition to said bone defect or injury at site of need.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~dried paste~~ composition of claim 1, wherein said dried bone paste is stored at room temperature for more than about 24 hours, and which is reconstituted to form a reconstituted paste composition prior to administration, whereby upon reconstitution said reconstituted paste composition is osteogenic, chondrogenic, or chondroprotective, or a combination thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) A lyophilized ~~dried~~ paste composition comprising freeze-dried DBM particles, an exothermic salt that heats upon contact with a reconstitution fluid, and a carrier, wherein said carrier is gelatin, hyaluronic acid, chondroitin sulfate, polyethylene oxide, polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyvinyl alcohol, collagen or dextran, or combinations thereof, wherein said ~~dried paste~~ composition is lyophilized and stored at room temperature for more than about 24 hours, and wherein when said ~~dried paste~~ composition is combined with water, the resulting combination is osteogenic, chondrogenic, or chondroprotective or a combination thereof upon implantation in the body of a patient reconstitution.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) The composition of claim 19, wherein said exothermic salt is selected from the group consisting of magnesium sulfate, magnesium chloride, sodium sulfate, or a combination thereof.

22. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein the carrier is gelatin.

23. (New) The composition of claim 22, wherein the gelatin is freeze-dried gelatin.

24. (New) The composition of claim 21, wherein the gelatin has a particle size ranging from about 125 microns to about 710 microns.

25. (New) The composition of claim 24, wherein the gelatin has a particle size ranging from about 500 microns to about 850 microns.

26. (New) The composition of claim 25, wherein the DBM particles have a particle size ranging from about 125 microns to about 850 microns.

27. (New) The composition of claim 26, wherein the DBM particles have a particle size ranging from about 250 microns to about 500 microns.